



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 14, 2004

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Nonpublic School Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Tom Watkins

SUBJECT: Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2005-2006

We need your help! Please help us identify and recognize Michigan's excellent teachers and the contributions they make to the success of the learning community.

The Michigan Department of Education website provides a nomination form that makes it easy for you, school parents, students, and other Michigan citizens to tell a great teacher that her/his efforts are recognized and appreciated.

To access the form:

- Go to **www.michigan.gov/mde** on the Internet
- Scroll to and click on the Recognition Programs link at the lower center
- Click on Michigan Teacher of the Year.
- Complete the Teacher of the Year Nomination Form and submit.

The deadline for online nominations is November 2, 2004.

Each nominated teacher will receive a letter of recognition from the State Board of Education and myself, along with an invitation to apply for the position of 2005-2006 Michigan Teacher of the Year. If selected for that honor, the teacher will be the spokesperson for all Michigan teachers, serving a sabbatical year as a staff member of the Department of Education, and participating in monthly State Board of Education meetings. See the website for additional information about the program.

I encourage you to post this information on your website, in your faculty lounges, and in parent newsletters. Questions regarding the Michigan Teacher of the Year Program may be addressed to Ms. Jean M. Shane, shanej@mi.gov or 517.241.2375.

Thank you for your assistance with these efforts to recognize excellent teachers and uplift the spirit and image of our education professionals.

cc: MEMSPA, MASSP, MASA, MAPSA, MEA, MFT, MANS, MASB

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